

(Continued from front cover)

95°F in western areas, generally favoring silking corn and blooming soybeans. In addition, heavy rain (1 to 4 inches in most areas) maintained adequate to locally excessive topsoil moisture in the **Corn Belt**, where consistent precipitation for 9 weeks has eliminated long-term drought from all but southwestern areas. In the **Ohio Valley**, a return to wet conditions slowed winter wheat harvesting. Widespread, occasionally heavy showers also fell on the **northern Plains**, generally aiding small grains but causing localized lowland flooding. Sharply cooler air arrived **west of the Rockies**, accompanied by scattered showers and thunderstorms in the **Northwest**. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10°F below normal in **northern California**, but soared up to 8°F above normal on the **central High Plains**. In the **East**, temperatures ranged from 5°F below normal in the **northern Mid-Atlantic region** to 5°F above normal in **Georgia**.

In the **Southeast**, weekly high temperatures averaged 97.1°F in **Tallahassee, FL**, 97.6°F in **Columbus, GA**, and 97.6°F in **Montgomery, AL**. Readings peaked on Friday at 103°F in **Tallahassee**, 102°F in **Columbus**, and 101°F in **Montgomery**. During the first 8 days of July, rainfall totaled only 0.28 inch in **Tallahassee** and 0.24 inch in **Montgomery**, while dry weather prevailed in **Columbus**, leaving year-to-date precipitation deficits at 22.76 inches, 16.13 inches, and 14.04 inches, respectively. **Tallahassee's** January 1 - July 8 rainfall, 11.43 inches, was just 33 percent of normal.

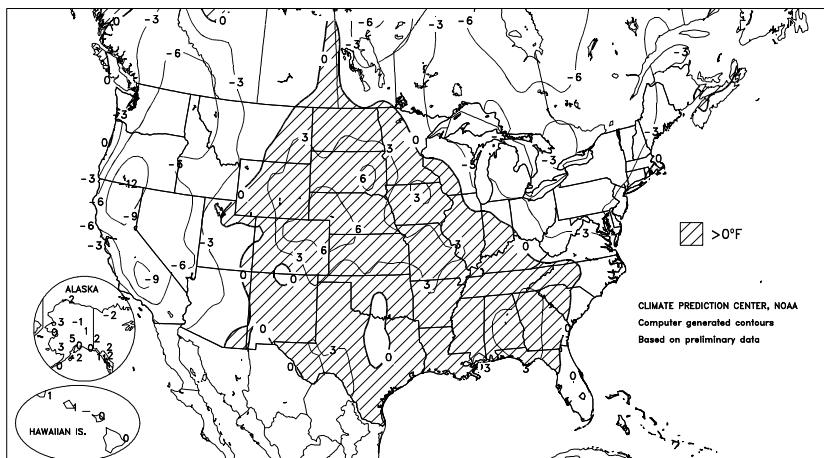
Meanwhile on the **central High Plains**, **Denver, CO** notched their tenth consecutive day of 90°F heat (June 29 - July 8), their longest such streak since August 27 - September 5, 1995. On Thursday, **Denver's** high of 101°F represented their first day of triple-digit heat since July 20, 1998. Weekly highs averaged 100.0°F in **Imperial, NE** and 99.3°F in **Hill City, KS**, peaking at 105°F on July 6 in **Imperial** and 102°F on July 4 and 5 in the latter location. In **Goodland, KS**, where triple-digit heat was observed on July 5, 6, and 8, dry weather in early July left their January 1 - July 8 precipitation at 7.13 inches, or 66 percent of normal. At week's end, heat briefly spread as far north as the **upper Midwest**, where **Huron, SD** (101°F on Saturday) posted a daily-record high.

In contrast, cool weather prevailed in the **West** and arrived late in the week across the **Northeast**. On Tuesday, daily-record lows in the **Northwest** included 29°F in **Redmond, OR** and 39°F in **Yakima, WA**. Showers accompanied the cool weather as far south as **northern California**, where **Red Bluff** noted a daily-record rainfall (0.67 inch) on July 4. **Red Bluff's** normal July rainfall is 0.06 inch. Farther east, daily-record lows on Saturday included 45°F in **Scranton, PA** and 53°F in **Wilmington, DE**.

Locally heavy thunderstorms continued to drench portions of the **northern Plains** and **Midwest**. **Milwaukee, WI** received

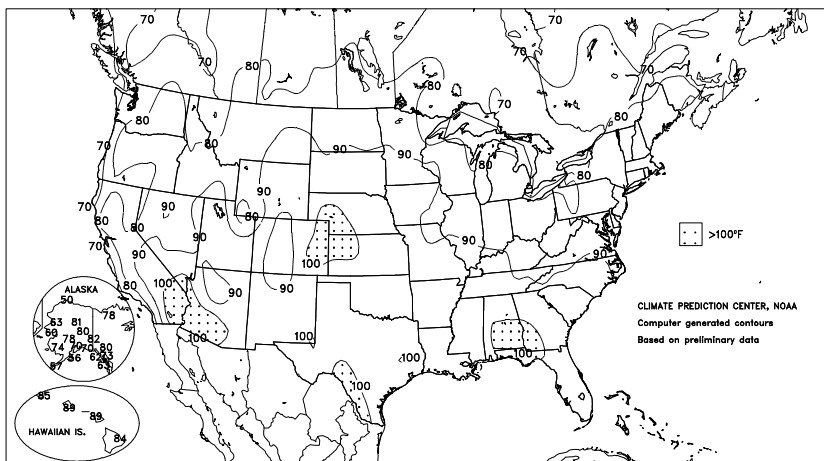
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

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Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

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a daily-record total (4.42 inches) for July 2. Later in the week, 24-hour rainfall totals for July 7-8 in **Wisconsin** reached 6.29 inches in **Rhineland** and 4.62 inches in **Green Bay**. **Green Bay's** previous 24-hour rainfall record for July was 4.39 inches, set on July 23, 1912. Meanwhile, cool weather lingered across the **central and eastern Corn Belt**. In **Chicago, IL**, where the month's highest temperature (through July 8) was 84°F, the mercury has not yet reached the 90°F mark this year. In the previous 82 years, **Chicago's** latest first occurrence of 90°F heat was July 21, 1960. In **Indianapolis, IN**, where the average date of the first 90°F heat is June 12, temperatures also failed to reach the 90°F mark through July 8, representing their latest such occurrence since August 6, 1979.

In **Alaska**, wildfires continued to produce dense smoke in parts of the **Yukon and Tanana River Valleys**, where visibilities dropped to as low as one-half mile in **Fairbanks**. Meanwhile, unusually heavy rain soaked **northern Alaska**, where **Barrow** (0.63 inch on July 4) noted their ninth-wettest day during the 85-year period of record. **Barrow's** normal annual precipitation is 4.49 inches. **Alaskan** weekly temperatures averaged within 5°F of normal statewide. Farther south, beneficial showers continued to ease long-term drought across parts of **Hawaii**, especially in windward areas.